



Chief Executive Officer's Report

March 2020

Emma Bradbury
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1. Appointments

Date	Event/meeting	Location
19/02/2020	Meeting with Senator Perin Davey	Echuca
20/02/2020	Region 11 Ordinary Meeting	Via Zoom
20/02/2020	Region 7 Ordinary Meeting	Via Zoom
24/02/2020	Meeting with Digby Jacobs MDBA and Vincent Kelly – Water NSW	Echuca
25/02/2020	76 TH National Conference – Committee Meeting	Via Zoom
25/02/2020	Mr Adam Obeid - Policy Advisor Office of the Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham MP Mr David Wiskar – Executive Director – Water Policy Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy	Via Telephone
26/02/2020	Nicole Emara - CSIRO	Canberra
26/02/2020	Scott Keyworth – NSW Government Floodplain Harvesting Program Manager	Canberra
26/02/2020	David Tonkin - Assistant Director – Department of Agriculture	Canberra
26/02/2020	Malcolm Thompson, Matthew Dadswell, Mary Colreavy Department of Agriculture	Canberra
26/02/2020	Luke O’Sullivan – Senior Adviser for the Deputy Prime Minister – The Hon Michael McCormack	Canberra
27/02/2020	Ramzi Jabbour and Elizabeth McDonald – Office of Inspector General MDB Water Resources – Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment	Canberra
27/02/2020	Senator Perin Davey, National Whip in the Senate	
27/02/2020	Dan Croucher - MDBA	
27/02/2020	The Hon Minister Mark Coulton and Cathy Heidrich	Canberra
27/02/2020	Mr Brendan McRandle – CEO and Ms Ruth Wall – Acting Executive Director – National Water Grid Authority	Canberra
27/02/2020	Mr Tony Mahar and Warrick Ragg – National Farmers Federation	Canberra
03/03/2020	Greta Morgan – Parks Victoria – National Conference	Nathalia
03/03/2020	MDB Roundtable – Planning Meeting – Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists	Videoconference
05/03/2020	ABC Riverina – Promotion of BCLP	Telephone
05/03/2020	Northern Mallee Leadership Program	Zoom
06/03/2020	Interviews for BCLP Traineeship Position	Echuca
10/03/2020	Walgett Shire Council – Funding Opportunities	Zoom
12 th , 13 th 14 th March 2020	Strategic Planning Workshop	Moama

2. Meetings – Canberra 26 – 27 February 2020

2.1 Adam Obeid – Policy Advisor to the Hon Anthony Lynham – Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy David Wiskar - Executive Director – Water Policy Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Teleconference to discuss Queensland's management of current inflows and position regarding feasibility of proposed river diversion scheme.

- QLD has detailed and transparent water resource plans, developed by DNRME over more than 3 years which have passed through rigorous community consultation and negotiation. The Northern Basin Environmental Watering group and others continue to monitor flows and opportunities to maximise their benefits.
- Barwon and Lower Darling communities are anxious about premature extractions potentially risking flows to the Murray.
- Cubbie Station last year committed to voluntarily contribute water to the Culgoa River and Lower Balonne intersecting streams.
- CEWH working with irrigators to transect additional recoveries in Northern Basin.
- MDA resolved at 2019 conference to call on Basin Governments and National Water Infrastructure Grid Task Force to investigate river diversion schemes including Coffey and Bradfield schemes.
- QLD Premier Berejiklian is ready to have a conversation about the new Bradfield Scheme, and opportunities for water security backup.

Discussion on how the MDA can support the QLD Government in shared endeavours to achieve Basin Plan objectives by building confidence across the community and unanimity across the respective jurisdictions.

MDA follow up will include writing to DNRME advising of motion and a call for commitment to investigate into impacts, merits and feasibility of a water river diversion scheme.

2.2 Nicole Emara – CSIRO

Meeting to extend invite for secondment of CSIRO scientist, Dr David Post to the MDA for the purpose of reviewing content and opportunities to inform the development of information to be presented at the 2020 National Conference. Mutually appropriate time to be arranged.

Discussion regarding collaboration with CSIRO on the development of Australia's National Outlook: Murray-Darling Basin and progression of Relationship Agreement.

Proposed possible motion for National Conference to demonstrate leading science in the contest of ideas and development of sound data and to recognise and support CSIRO's role as Australia's National Science agency.

2.3 Scott Keyworth – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

General discussion regarding development and release of measurement policy and how-to best support NSW to complete their WRP's.

Contact details for Daniel Blacker, Project Manager, provided for further information on floodplain harvesting regulation policy.

[Floodplain harvesting](#) summary information

2.4 David Tonkin – Department of Agriculture

Provided Department with an update on the BCLP program

Discussions around Collarenebri – Walgett. Possibility of partnering with MDA to develop a project proposal such as a Regenerative Ag Incubator. Also raised possibility of local government/first nations collaboration on Basin communities and stories map.

2.5 Malcolm Thompson, Matthew Dadswell and Mary Colreavy– Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.

General discussions on management of inflows from recent rain events and community response, the importance of NSW completing their WRPs, National Water Infrastructure Grid and the new Organisational Chart for the department.

2.6 Senior Adviser to Deputy Prime Minister – The Hon Michael McCormack - Luke O’Sullivan

Discussion regarding a nationally coordinated approach to infrastructure investment, positive reinforcement for NSW to complete WRP’s.

Briefings on projects and grant applications - BCLP, Regional Economic Diversification Program and Positive Basin Stories.

The Deputy Prime Minister was invited to provide an intro video for the BCLP.

2.7 The Hon Minister Keith Pitt, Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia and Advisors Craig Bradley & Marcus Finn

Brief introduction to Minister Keith Pitt. Advised of MDA key message that NSW WRP’s need to be completed. Also spoke to looking beyond 2024 to Basin Plan 2.

Discussed economic diversification, connecting communities and catchments and invited to attend BCLP.

2.8 Ramzi Jabbour – Deputy Inspector-General Murray-Darling Basin Water Resources, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Meeting re-iterated the need for NSW to complete WSP’s and the need to start discussing Basin Plan 2. Also raised issue of the science community needing to be seen and trusted to robustly contest ideas. Detailed discussion about the use of local government as that level of representation is well placed to serve the national interest. Local government should be adequately resourced and empowered to provide approvals for water dependent DA’s via national peak. Need to think outside the box.

2.9 The Hon Minister Mark Coulton and Cathy Heidrich (Senior Adviser)

Discussion regarding NSW WRP’s. Conversation around Collarenebri-Walgett and project proposal for a Regenerative Agriculture incubator or Annual Conference that could partner on BCLP graduation event.

2.10 Brendan McRandle – CEO, Malcolm Southwell, General Manager Policy, Science and Engagement, Drew Edwards – General Manager, Chris Biesaga – Regional Development and Local Government

Introductions from the MDA and the Agency. Requested information on water river diversion schemes, including David Coffey’s Clarence scheme. Also discussed the Bradfield Scheme. Raised the need for NSW to complete WSP’s, recognition of the science community, rationale of assessment of investments i.e. dams v groundwater storages. Very constructive meeting with many opportunities for follow up.

2.11 Tony Mahar – CEO, and Warwick Ragg -General Manager Natural Resources - National Farmers Federation

Meeting discussed need for NSW to complete WPS’s and to think about Basin Plan 2. Invitation extended to provide video for BCLP, which was accepted

2.12 Senator Pat Dodson

Met with Pat Dodson (unscheduled). Discussed BCLP and First Nations involvement in leadership participation. Referral provided for Joe Morrison – former Northern Land Council Chief Executive. Joe has forwarded CV with MDA to make contact.

2.13 Dan Croucher – MDBA

Dan provided contact details for Water leadership engagement.

How do we look at Basin Plan 2 – Conversation needs to commence.

Discussed NSW project timeline re the submission of plans.

2.14 Senator Perin Davey – Nationals Whip in the Senate

Discussions on timelines for the completion of NSW WRPs.

3. Basin Community Leadership Program

Tony Banks – Project Manager will provide a detail presentation and update at the upcoming Strategic Workshop 12th and 13th March 2020 in Moama.

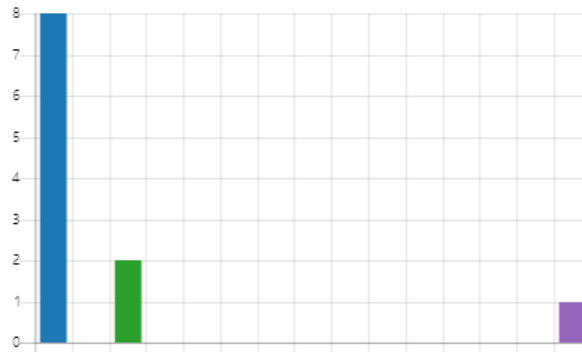
Current Enrolment status: ONE application from Lower Lakes (via email)

- Lower Lakes: 8
- Cobdogla Barmera: 2
- Rochester: 1

6. Please select which workshop you wish to apply for

[More Details](#)

● Lower Lakes (Goolwa): 26-27 ...	8
● Loxton: 28-29 May 2020	0
● Cobdogla-Barmera: 16-17 Jun...	2
● Berri: 18-19 June 2020	0
● Swan Reach: 07-08 July 2020	0
● Merbein: 09-10 July 2020	0
● Red Cliffs: 25-26 August 2020	0
● Colignan: 27-28 August 2020	0
● Cunnamulla: 10-11 September...	0
● Dirranbandi: 14-15 September...	0
● St George: 17-18 September 2...	0
● Collarenebri: 12-13 October 2...	0
● Warren: 15-16 October 2020	0
● Wakool: 26-27 October 2020	0
● Rochester: 29-30 October 2020	1



4. Introducing Georgia Andrew-Mills

Georgia commenced employment with the MDA on 11th March 2020 followed by an incredible 2-day induction by way of attending the MDA Strategic Planning Workshops held in Moama. Georgia is employed on a full-time basis as the Business and Training Support Officer for the Basin Community Leadership Program working side by side with Tony Banks our Project Manager.

Georgia recently completed a traineeship with the Country Fire Authority based in district 20 (Kerang), she has completed a Certificate 111 in Business and hopes to build on her skill sets and is looking forward to the commencement of the BCLP training workshops.

The staff at the MDA welcome Georgia and encourage her to succeed and are pleased that she has joined the wonderful team.

Emma Bradbury

Chief Executive Officer